

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /148 W
-----013555 211902Z /72

R 211820Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9607
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL HAMBURG

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USEEC

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EFIS, GW, PO, EEC
SUBJECT: GERMAN ESTABLISHMENT OF TERRITORIAL FISHING
WATERS IN THE BALTIC

REF: WARSAW 4927

1. SUMMARY: EFFECTIVE JUNE 14, THE FRG ESTABLISHED A
FISHING ZONE IN THE BALTIC SEA. THE PROCLAMATION IS
IN RESPONSE TO THE POLISH SEIZURE OF TWO GERMAN
FISHING BOATS IN THE SO-CALLED "GRAY ZONE" OFF
BORNHOLM WHICH IS CLAIMED BY BOTH POLAND AND
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DENMARK. THE PROCLAMATION IS SEEN AS AN EMPTY
GESTURE BY BOTH FISHERMEN AND THE PRESS. POLISH
ADAMANCY IS SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN AN
ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS
CONCERNING FISHING QUOTAS IN EC TERRITORIAL WATERS
IN THE ATLANTIC. A TENTATIVE SOLUTION MAY CONSIST
OF TRADING THESE QUOTAS FOR RIGHTS IN THE BALTIC.

END SUMMARY.

2. THE GERMAN ANNOUNCEMENT COMES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A SERIES OF INCIDENTS IN THE SO-CALLED GRAY ZONE. SO FAR THE POLES HAVE PURSUED ONE FISHING CUTTER, AND SEIZED TWO OTHERS, THE LATEST INCIDENT BEING THE SEIZURE OF THE "CAPELLA". CURRENTLY, A BILATERAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN DENMARK AND POLAND THAT ONLY THEY MAY FISH THE CONTESTED AREA, UNTIL A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED.

3. THE FRG PROCLAMATION ALLOWS EC FISHERMEN TO FISH IN GERMAN TERRITORIAL WATERS IN CONFORMITY WITH COMMUNITY RULES, AND OTHERS ONLY ON THE BASIS OF SPECIAL PERMITS OR THROUGH AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THEIR COUNTRY.

4. BOTH THE FISHERMEN AND THE PRESS REGARD THE PROCLAMATION AS A HOLLOW ATTEMPT AT A SOLUTION. THE "WEST GERMAN" BALTIC PROVIDES ONLY THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL BALTIC CATCH. A FAR MORE USEFUL STEP WAS THE DANISH PROMISE TO PROTECT THE BOATS OF ITS FELLOW EC MEMBERS, WHICH FISH IN DANISH WATERS.

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5. THE GERMAN CATCH IS ALREADY 20 PERCENT BELOW THE QUOTA WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY SET. THIS DEFICIT WILL PROBABLY WIDEN, BECAUSE THE LUCRATIVE CODFISHING IN SWEDISH WATERS CAME TO AN END JUNE 19.

6. HAVING A SMALL COASTLINE, THE FRG TRADITIONALLY

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HAS BEEN OPPOSED TO THE EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL
WATERS. HOWEVER, ACTION WAS NECESSITATED BY
POLISH AGGRESSIVENESS, THE GERMAN FISHERMEN'S CRY
FOR RETALIATION AND EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL
FISHING ZONES BY THE OTHER BALTIC STATES. FURTHER
UNILATERAL ACTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE IS
NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE FRG IS BOUND BY EC AND LOS
COMMITMENTS.

7. AN ADDITIONAL PROBLEM FACING THE FRG CONCERNS
THE LUEBECK INLET. STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE
PRINCIPLE OF DIVISION ALONG THE MIDLINE, AS THE
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GDR PREFERS, WOULD MAKE NAVIGATION EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT FOR SHIPS ENTERING THE HARBOR. IN THESE
WATERS, THE FRG WANTS A SEPARATE AGREEMENT ON
ESTABLISHMENT OF TERRITORIAL ZONES.

8. THE PRESS OPINES THAT THE RECALCITRANT POLISH
POSITION IS AIMED AT IMPROVING ITS NEGOTIATING
POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE EC WHEN QUOTAS ARE SET
FOR EC TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE ATLANTIC. WERE
THE POLES TO RECEIVE ATLANTIC QUOTAS AND MAKE
CONCESSIONS IN THE BALTIC, ANY NEW BALTIC SCHEME
WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT IN BRUSSELS AND
HENCE OFFERS NO PROMISE AS A QUICK SOLUTION.

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Message Attributes

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